

This summer, the Coeur d'Alene Trust, under EPA's direction, will begin soil sampling at properties in the Lower Coeur d'Alene River Basin. Sampling will help us evaluate how suitable the properties are for various future uses. We're providing this fact sheet to give you the latest information and answer your questions.

Where are the properties located? The Dredge Road property is two miles west of Cataldo, on the north side of Interstate 90. In addition to the Dredge Road property, the Trust also owns an adjacent small property south of I-90 that borders the Coeur d'Alene River.

Work schedule: Sampling will take place this summer and last about 7-10 days. Additional data collection will take place this fall as needed to support the investigation. You may see trucks, drill rigs, and other equipment on the properties at this time. The Trust will be surveying and sampling the properties.

Things to know about the properties: The properties were deeded to the Trust through the ASARCO bankruptcy. From 1932-1968, a suction dredge operated in the Coeur d'Alene River near the boat launch. Over its life, the dredge removed about 34.5 million tons of sediments contaminated with mine tailings from the Coeur d'Alene River. These contaminated sediments were deposited in a tailings pond on Mission Flats, covering an area of about 2,000 acres to a depth of 25-30 feet. The properties are within this area, which contains high levels of lead and other metals.

What will the properties be used for? No decisions have been made yet for how the properties will be used. The Trust is often looking for properties from which to obtain soil, gravel, and larger rock, or as locations to place contaminated materials in protectively engineered waste repositories (Waste Consolidation Areas). The properties could also provide an area to keep equipment needed for future work. Properties such as these are essential to completing our cleanup projects. We need to conduct investigations to determine their suitability.

What's important to know about Lower Basin cleanups? Lead and other heavy metals are common in the soils and sediments of the Coeur d'Alene River and floodplain. These contaminants pose a risk to people's health and the environment. The Trust and EPA are moving forward carefully to investigate the proper path to implement Lower Basin cleanups. Lower Basin cleanup has been a relatively new endeavor for both EPA and the Trust in the past several years. The topography, river system, and methods of completing efficient and viable cleanups is different from the Upper Basin, where cleanup has been going on for years. Much information is needed before we select a cleanup technology, or technologies, and draft cleanup designs.



Equipment like this sonic drill rig will be used for soil sampling.

For more information:

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 *TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Debra's phone number.*



Questions and Answers about sampling at Lower Basin properties



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June 2021